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Letter dated 19 November 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 5 November 2018 from the Permanent Mission of France forwarding the report on the activities carried out by French armed forces in the Central African Republic in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, from 1 January to 1 October 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-19991 (E) 231118 261118

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Annex

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations Secretariat, and has the honour to transmit the following information.

Pursuant to paragraphs 65 and 67 of Security Council resolution 2387 (2017), adopted on 15 November 2017, please find attached the report on the actions carried out by French forces in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic from 1 January to 1 October 2018 (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretary-General could bring the report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Report on the operational support provided by French forces to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, from 1 January to 1 October 2018

Background documents:

- Security Council resolution 2387 (2017) of 15 November 2017 (paras. 65 and 67)
- Joint procedural document of 11 January 2017 signed by the National Support Element, the Central African Republic and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

The present report summarizes the support provided by French forces to MINUSCA from 1 January to 1 October 2018.

With regard to operations, the aerial component of ground support for Operation Barkhane has the capacity to provide ad hoc air support to MINUSCA. To that end, Operation Barkhane conducted joint close air support training exercises with Portuguese joint terminal attack controllers from the quick reaction force on 22 March and 28 September 2018. A show of force was conducted on 13 May 2018 to deter an ex-Séléka faction from marching into Bangui.

With regard to the overall partnership between French forces and MINUSCA, since September, French forces have been providing technical training support to the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA in the following four areas: health; military police and gendarmerie; troop support; and ammunition.

Informal discussions take place regularly between the French support detachment stationed in M'Poko (Bangui) and MINUSCA. There are also discussions with the Strategic Communication and Public Information Division of MINUSCA.

With regard to engineering support for airport infrastructure, the French support detachment stationed in M'Poko is currently repairing the taxiway to the Joint Transit Unit, which is used by MINUSCA aircraft to return to their parking area. French forces also used their technical expertise to help MINUSCA with the inspection of the runway at Bouar Airport, which is used by MINUSCA to conduct logistics operations by air.

With regard to logistics, the French support detachment stationed in M'Poko handled the cargo of the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA and played host to the Gabonese forces while they were in transit.

French forces based in M'Poko helped to manage the transfer of equipment to the Gabonese battalion (the forces transferred three trailers' worth of field showers for value in August 2018; carried out technical maintenance of five armoured vanguard vehicles in preparation for their transfer at the end of November 2018; and facilitated the logistics of transferring nine Marauder armoured vehicles in September 2018).

With regard to health support, French forces cooperated with the role 1 medical unit of the Portuguese quick reaction force by making available an ultrasound scanner through the French role 1 unit and by providing treatment when required. French forces would also be able to provide support to victims in the event of a mass casualty incident, if necessary.

Lastly, with regard to joint support, French forces provided accommodation for the Portuguese quick reaction force at the M'Poko camp. The support provided included water and electricity supply and infrastructure maintenance.